Sept. 25 1892

My dear Maria

I feel very anxious about you as I have not had your usual pleasant letter telling all the news of the Severi's but my Walter told me he had been to you & had shown you my Volta scrawl & I trust he had also paid you the £5 from me & the rest my children pay you as I am rather pinched for I have the great difficulty of a new lease of my house & as there are 30 applicants I am obliged to look about me Also the King is trying to buy the Poli Palace where I have lived 10 years & where I hoped to live the rest of my life -

I think I told you of that excellent plan of my good Doctor to keep house with me with his wife & Sister just now I hope the plan is coming off & I am in a great fidget lest it should fail, but in that case he is to find another house for us - You will understand my dread of living alone for I like & want amusement - Now this Dr Valeriani is excellent company & can give me a "Roland for an Oliver" then he knows me well & has cured me -

As usual I am here "out to grass" in great comfort, for 3 months I have not spoken a word of English, but I employ my mornings in a stroll of 4 & 5 miles, coming home bathed with perspiration - I always change & at last I can dress & undress myself - the dinner is at 12 & very good, afterwards I lie down & sleep 1 & 2 hours which after my fatigue is needful

I dare say you know that I had a visit from Arthur & his Bride which was a great happiness to me & to them, but perhaps you dont know that he is a lucky Dog for he has had an Annuity left him of £200 a year from the late Duke of Bedford - You always say I am so lucky in my children I agree you I feel it & know that I am poor & know that they are all well to do, 'tis a real consolation

I often think of you & envy you in having those dear girls so near you & that you pop in upon Tom so nicely - he wrote me a very pleasant letter - that he could walk in the street - dress himself & that he had composed 3 new songs but Arthur writes me from Lancashire that it has rained for 13 days! so that poor Tom must feel it, yet with all I hope next Summer to pay you all a fond visit, but only for the Summer for altho' I am well, yet the least damp or cold fills me with pains - yet you'll say that is age, 78 is the cause but I hold up wonderfully & the people of Tolfa having seen me when I could not walk are astonished now at my recovery for as yet I have not a wrinkle

I am glad to be out of the worry & care of my official life for I am very nervous & ever good news upset me - On the 1st October I hope to be back in Rome & in my dear house for a change would upset me - but as I shall have this excellent Doctor & his Ladies with me, so I shall pick up & feel "bobbish"

Your loving brother Joe

Tolfa Sept 25 I go to Rome on the 30th

no longer the Consulate – I now can see that there was a deal set at me to deprive me of any pension Lord G. took up my defence against this Cabal & if I had not got a pension from the Lords of the Treasury his Lordship was prepared to provide for me himself – I have never seen Sir A. Paget our minister since his violent attack on me but he sends his card & I dare say we may come together at last but I am obliged to show him respect as our Ambassador & I can afford to do so as I beat him so splendidly in procuring the two Royal letters favorable to me on the very point in which he was attacking me – I return the fine order of the Italian crown presented to me by His Majesty Victor Emanuel & 6 other medals which I show with some degree of pride & I know that no Englishman has ever obtained so much

Now I am writing you such a long scrawl as I know every word however stupid will interest & amuse you in your solitude & therefore I shall go on as I have a new pen & paper & no end of a loving disposition

The Doctor is laying in a great stock of every thing by which he saves half – Wine oil, charcoal &c &c for I have good cellars, & he